California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | **PRESS RELEASE**
Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov | Docket #: R.12-11-005

CPUC EXPANDS ENERGY PROGRAMS TO HELP MITIGATE IMPACT OF WILDFIRES

SAN FRANCISCO, September 12, 2019 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in its ongoing efforts to improve wildfire resiliency throughout the state, today approved new budgets and modified incentives and rules for energy storage in the Self-Generation Incentive Program.

Today's decision establishes a new $100 million resiliency program to support installation of energy storage that provides electricity when there is an outage or Public Safety Power Shut Off (also known as de-energization) event due to high wildfire risk. The program targets Tier 2 and Tier 3 high fire threat districts, where there is "extreme" and "elevated" risk of fire. The eligible participants in these districts are disadvantaged and low income customers, vulnerable households, critical services facilities, and low income solar program customers. Additionally, the decision substantially increases the existing Self-Generation Incentive Program "storage equity budget" incentives for disadvantaged and low income customers throughout the state. It also modifies the equity budget eligibility criteria to 1) expand the definition of disadvantaged communities to include California Indian Lands; and 2) grants automatic eligibility to participants in the Single Family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) program, the SASH for Disadvantaged Communities program (DAC-SASH), the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program, and the Multifamily Affordable Solar Housing (MASH) program.

Furthermore, the CPUC approved $4 million for heat pump water incentives, and $10 million for Self-Generation Incentive Program storage incentives to support pilot projects in 11 San Joaquin Valley disadvantaged communities. Authorized in Decision (D.)18-12-015, the communities are Allensworth, Alpaugh, California City, Cantua Creek, Ducor, Fairmead, Lanare, Le Grand, La Vina, Seville, and West Goshen. All of the storage systems that receive incentives must follow existing program rules that ensure the storage system reduces the customer's greenhouse gas emissions (also a statutory requirement).

Wildfires in California are becoming increasingly destructive. Local distributed energy resources, such as battery storage and rooftop solar, can help provide more reliable energy solutions when electricity is shut off to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire.

"This important expansion of the Self-Generation Incentive Program will benefit thousands of vulnerable customers and local emergency response providers over the next few years," said Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen. "They are the most at-risk when power is shut off from the grid."

Added Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves, "The Self-Generation Incentive Program has in the past fallen short of its goals to help bring energy storage to vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. I am hopeful that this new, more targeted and efficient equity program will lead to the investment these communities need. In particular, I appreciate the $10 million set-aside for pilot communities in our San Joaquin Valley proceeding, and I encourage the pilot administrators to leverage these incentives fully."

The Self-Generation Incentive Program was established in 2001 to increase deployment of distributed generation and energy storage systems to facilitate the integration of those resources into the electrical grid, improve efficiency and reliability of the distribution and transmission system, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, peak demand, and ratepayer costs.

For more information on the Self-Generation Incentive Program, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov/sgip.

The proposal voted on is available at:
http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M312/K684/312684664.PDF.

Documents related to this proceeding are available at:
https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=401:56:0::NO:RP,57,RIR:P5_PROCEEDING_SELECT:R1211005.

The CPUC regulates services and utilities, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

###